

News

From the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

Donald S. Dott Jr., Executive Director



KY State Nature Preserves Commission
801 Schenkel Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601-1403

Contact: Cecilia Mitchell
(502) 573-2886

KENTUCKY STATE NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION PRESENTS ANNUAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY PROTECTION AWARD

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 2, 2003) -- Today, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) presented its annual Biological Diversity Protection Award to Tom FitzGerald, director of the Kentucky Resources Council.

FitzGerald, or "Fitz" as he's commonly called, is synonymous with the environmental protection movement in Kentucky and is respected by both regulators and industry representatives. FitzGerald's expertise and influence spans the panorama of environmental issues. He began with a focus on surface mining and has since become active in air and water quality; solid, hazardous and radioactive wastes; zoning and landuse planning; and non-environmental issues with an environmental impact.

In making the award presentation to FitzGerald, KSNPC Chair Clara Wheatley said, "His unceasing efforts for environmental protection for more than 25 years have accomplished as much as anyone in the history of Kentucky to protect and conserve our native biological diversity."

KSNPC's mission is to protect Kentucky's natural heritage by: (1) identifying, acquiring and managing natural areas that represent the best-known occurrences of rare, native species, natural communities and significant natural features in a statewide nature preserve system; (2) working with others to protect biological diversity; and (3) educating Kentuckians as to the value and purpose of nature preserves and biodiversity conservation. The commission inventories Kentucky for significant natural areas and protects the best examples in a state nature preserve system with 18,274 acres statewide.

More information about the commission can be obtained by mail (KSNPC, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601-1403), by telephone (502) 573-2886 or on the Internet (www.naturepreserves.ky.gov).